

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A preformed sleeve for covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, comprising:

a base portion having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, and an interior space when opened;

a plurality of preformed folds in the base portion; and

a constriction element preattached to a portion of the ~~base portion~~

preformed sleeve forming a constricted area in the plurality of preformed folds in a portion of the base portion and wherein the constriction element completely surrounds the ~~outer peripheral surface of the base portion~~ preformed sleeve.

2. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further comprising an upper portion which is detachable.

3. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

4. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mils.

5. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 10 mils.

6. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 1 mil to about 5 mils.

7. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymer film, non-polymer film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the plurality of folds further comprises a plurality of pleats, a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

9. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further comprising an extended portion for serving as a handle or support device.

10. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the base portion has a drainage element therein.

11. (Original) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 further comprising a gusset in the lower end of the base portion.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, the method comprising:

providing a preformed sleeve comprising a base portion having an

upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, and an interior space when opened,

a plurality of preformed folds in the base portion, and

a constriction element preattached to a portion of the base

~~portion~~ preformed sleeve forming a constricted area in

the plurality of preformed folds in a portion of the base

portion and wherein the constriction element

~~completely surrounds the outer peripheral surface of~~

~~the base portion~~ preformed sleeve; and

disposing the pot into the base portion of the preformed sleeve
after the preformed sleeve has been opened.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the plurality of folds further comprises a plurality of pleats, a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve further comprises a detachable upper portion.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein in the step of disposing the pot, the pot has a floral grouping disposed therein.

17. (Original) A plant package comprising a pot and a preformed sleeve, the pot having a floral grouping disposed therein, the plant package produced by the method of claim 12.

18. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the lower end of the base portion is open.

19. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the lower end of the base portion is closed.

20. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the upper end of the base portion is curved, scalloped, laterally-oriented, diagonally-oriented, "petal-like", crenate, crenulate, toothed, zig-zagged, crenelate, or wavy.

21. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 wherein the constriction element is a band, ribbon, string, strip, tape, elastic, or non-elastic.

22. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 1 having a bonding material thereon.

23. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the lower end of the base portion is open.

24. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the lower end of the base portion is closed.

25. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the upper end of the base portion is curved, scalloped, laterally-oriented, diagonally-oriented, "petal-like", crenate, crenulate, toothed, zig-zagged, crenelate, or wavy.

26. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the constriction element is a band, ribbon, string, strip, tape, elastic, or non-elastic.

27. (New) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of attaching the preformed sleeve to the pot after the pot has been disposed within the base portion of the preformed sleeve.

28. (New) A preformed sleeve for covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, comprising:

- a base portion having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, and an interior space when opened;

- a plurality of preformed folds in the base portion; and

- a constriction element preattached to a portion of the preformed sleeve forming a constricted area in the plurality of preformed folds in a portion of the base portion.

29. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 further comprising an upper portion which is detachable.

30. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 wherein the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

31. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mils.

32. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 10 mils.

33. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 1 mil to about 5 mils.

34. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or

untreated paper, metal foil, polymer film, non-polymer film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

35. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 wherein the plurality of folds further comprises a plurality of pleats, a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

36. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 further comprising an extended portion for serving as a handle or support device.

37. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 wherein the base portion has a drainage element therein.

38. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 further comprising a gusset in the lower end of the base portion.

39. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 wherein the lower end of the base portion is open.

40. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 wherein the lower end of the base portion is closed.

41. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 wherein the upper end of the base portion is curved, scalloped, laterally-oriented, diagonally-oriented, “petal-like”, crenate, crenulate, toothed, zig-zagged, crenelate, or wavy.

42. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 wherein the constriction element is a band, ribbon, string, strip, tape, elastic, or non-elastic.

43. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 28 having a bonding material thereon.

44. (New) A method of covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, the method comprising:

providing a preformed sleeve comprising a base portion having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, and an interior space when opened,
a plurality of preformed folds in the base portion, and
a constriction element preattached to a portion of the preformed sleeve forming a constricted area in the plurality of preformed folds in a portion of the base portion; and

disposing the pot into the base portion of the preformed sleeve
after the preformed sleeve has been opened.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

46. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the plurality of folds further comprises a plurality of pleats, a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

47. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve further comprises a detachable upper portion.

48. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein in the step of disposing the pot, the pot has a floral grouping disposed therein.

49. (New) A plant package comprising a pot and a preformed sleeve, the pot having a floral grouping disposed therein, the plant package produced by the method of claim 44.

50. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the lower end of the base portion is open.

51. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the lower end of the base portion is closed.

52. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the upper end of the base portion is curved, scalloped, laterally-oriented, diagonally-oriented, "petal-like", crenate, crenulate, toothed, zig-zagged, crenelate, or wavy.

53. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the constriction element is a band, ribbon, string, strip, tape, elastic, or non-elastic.

54. (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of attaching the preformed sleeve to the pot after the pot has been disposed within the base portion of the preformed sleeve.

55. (New) A preformed sleeve for covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, comprising:

a base portion having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, and an interior space when opened;
a plurality of preformed folds in the base portion; and
a constriction element preattached to a portion of the preformed sleeve for constricting a portion of the plurality of preformed folds in a portion of the base portion.

56. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 further comprising an upper portion which is detachable.

57. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 wherein the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

58. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mils.

59. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 0.5 mil to about 10 mils.

60. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 further defined as constructed from a material having a thickness in a range of from about 1 mil to about 5 mils.

61. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 further defined as constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of treated or untreated paper, metal foil, polymer film, non-polymer film, cardboard, fiber, cloth, burlap, and laminations or combinations thereof.

62. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 wherein the plurality of folds further comprises a plurality of pleats, a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

63. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 further comprising an extended portion for serving as a handle or support device.

64. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 wherein the base portion has a drainage element therein.

65. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 further comprising a gusset in the lower end of the base portion.

66. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 wherein the lower end of the base portion is open.

67. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 wherein the lower end of the base portion is closed.

68. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 wherein the upper end of the base portion is curved, scalloped, laterally-oriented, diagonally-oriented, "petal-like", crenate, crenulate, toothed, zig-zagged, crenelate, or wavy.

69. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 wherein the constriction element is a band, ribbon, string, strip, tape, elastic, or non-elastic.

70. (New) The preformed sleeve of claim 55 having a bonding material thereon.

71. (New) A method of covering a pot having an upper end, a lower end, and an outer peripheral surface, the method comprising:

providing a preformed sleeve comprising a base portion having an upper end, a lower end, an outer peripheral surface, and an interior space when opened,
a plurality of preformed folds in the base portion, and
a constriction element preattached to a portion of the preformed sleeve for constricting a portion of the plurality of preformed folds in a portion of the base portion; and
disposing the pot into the base portion of the preformed sleeve after the preformed sleeve has been opened.

72. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the base portion is further defined as being sized to substantially cover the outer peripheral surface of the pot.

73. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the plurality of folds further comprises a plurality of pleats, a plurality of folds each having a z-shaped cross section, or a plurality of accordion-type folds.

74. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve further comprises a detachable upper portion.

75. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein in the step of disposing the pot, the pot has a floral grouping disposed therein.

76. (New) A plant package comprising a pot and a preformed sleeve, the pot having a floral grouping disposed therein, the plant package produced by the method of claim 71.

77. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the lower end of the base portion is open.

78. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the lower end of the base portion is closed.

79. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the upper end of the base portion is curved, scalloped, laterally-oriented, diagonally-oriented, "petal-like", crenate, crenulate, toothed, zig-zagged, crenelate, or wavy.

80. (New) The method of claim 71 wherein in the step of providing the preformed sleeve, the constriction element is a band, ribbon, string, strip, tape, elastic, or non-elastic.

81. (New) The method of claim 71 further comprising the step of attaching the preformed sleeve to the pot after the pot has been disposed within the base portion of the preformed sleeve.